

54 430

TRANSCAUCASIA

438* wool weaving), tanning, and the manufacturing of shoes and clothing.
361 Food processing industries are also important. Tbilisi receives its power
G from the Zemo-Avchala hydroelectric station (commonly known as
438 Zages), located a few miles upstream on the Kura River. It is the site
361 of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, a university, and many technical
and scientific institutions. The city extends north and south in the Kura
valley. The oldest central part, with narrow, crooked alleys and a typi-
cally Asiatic appearance, lies near sulphur springs which have long been
used in curative baths. To the north and the south of the central por-
tion extend the modern industrial and residential sections of the capital,
including the largest plants and marshaling yards.

Kutaisi, on the Rion River, just above the Rion hydroelectric station,
is the largest city and industrial center of Western Georgia, served by a
rail spur, highways, and airlines. It manufactures automobile trucks,
coal-mining machinery, chemicals (sulphuric acid, lithopone), textiles,
and leather goods. Its industrial development received considerable im-
petus during the post-war Five-Year Plan. The ancient capital of
Imeretia, the city was officially called Kutais until 1936.

54 Rustavi, the newest city of the Georgian SSR and destined to become
the fourth largest center of the republic, with an estimated population
[325] of 50,000, developed after 1943 and was made a city in 1948. It is the
C seat of the Transcaucasian steel industry, with a full metallurgical pro-
duction cycle. Situated southeast of Tbilisi, it consists of a residential
right-bank section and an industrial left-bank portion linked by a bridge
of the Kura River.

54 Chiatura (formerly spelled Chiatury), on a rail spur northeast of
316 Kutaisi, is one of the largest manganese-mining centers of the world.
438* Having been exploited since 1879, the mines are now powered by the
G Rion hydroelectric plant. The manganese supplies the Zestafoni ferro-
316 manganese works and is shipped via the Black Sea ports of Poti and
438 Batumi.

Poti, an important port on the Black Sea, in the Kolkhida lowland,
acts chiefly as an outlet for the Chiatura manganese mines. It ships also
lumber, corn, and wine.

Gori is a fruit-canning and cotton-milling town and the birthplace
of Stalin.